Washington Whispers®

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Oswald in Russian Pay? . . . Why British Are "Fed Up" With U. S. . . . Latest on Who'll Run With LBJ

Chief Justice Earl Warren may find some congressional members of his commission investigating the Kennedy assassination resigning soon unless he speeds up that inquiry.

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Remarks by the Chief Justice that some testimony may be sealed "in your lifetime" have revived rumors that Lee Oswald, the alleged assassin, had been in the pay of the Russians—a point needing to be covered up in the interest of U. S. foreign policy.

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There's much questioning about how information gathered by the FBI was made public, tending to discredit the personal record of a man who testified concerning a gift of a stereo hi-fi to Lyndon Johnson when he was majority leader, and also concerning the purchase of time on a TV station owned by the Johnson family. In an effort, it is said, to discredit that testimony, a columnist was given access, through another Government agency, to information of a type which is kept confidential unless required in court or asked for by a congressional committee.

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Another question now being asked: Under what circumstances did the Internal Revenue Service open up secret tax information to a columnist, bearing on gifts to former President Eisenhower—to establish that those gifts overshadowed any that may have been made to the new President? Questions are being raised about this way of using secret information to discourage inquiry by intimidating individuals or even a political party.

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British officials make this complaint: The White House, without consulting Great Britain, whose vital interests are involved, sent Robert Kennedy flying to the Far East to try to mediate the dispute between Indonesia's Sukarno and the new British-backed nation of Malaysia. The British Ambassador in Washington learned of the Kennedy trip from reading the newspapers.

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High British officials say that they are "fed to the teeth" with what they feel is the hypocrisy of high U. S. officials. The American officials go on giving large quantities of food and other aid to Indonesia's Sukarno, who has been shooting at British soldiers, while complaining because Britain sells buses to Castro.

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President Johnson is reported by very well-informed political leaders in Texas to have told Joe Kilgore, a five-term member of the U. S. House of Representatives who earlier had been encouraged to give up his seat and run for the Senate, that he now had to give up that plan so Senator Ralph Yarborough, a "liberal" Democrat, would be unopposed in the primary. Representative Kilgore is said to have been warned that many barriers would be placed in his way if he attempted to oppose Senator Yarborough.

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Until he became President, Mr. Johnson had been strongly opposed to Senator Yarborough and in favor of Representative Kilgore, who now is described as "out in the cold." The President, in switching to favor of his old enemy, is reported to have said that Senator Yarborough would vote for his program in Congress all across the board, while he could not count on Mr. Kilgore to do this.

Governor John Connally of Texas, who was wounded at the time President Kennedy was assassinated, is pictured as "cooling off" in his relations with the new President, because of the latter's dabbling in Texas politics.

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Reports that President Johnson is giving serious thought to having Robert Kennedy in second place on the Johnson ticket this year are drawing cheers in some big Eastern States but sour notes from the South, Midwest and West. Said one Midwestern party leader: "Even Republicans in my area now are saying they would vote for Johnson—but not for a ticket of Johnson and Kennedy."

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An American employe at the United Nations makes this point that relates to the agreement being urged by Najeeb Halaby, head of the Federal Aviation Agency, to open direct flights between New York and Moscow: "Russia's embassy and U. N. staffs number several hundred people. If they could shuttle between New York and Moscow twice a week in their own planes, think of how much secret material, military secrets, scientific and technical data . . . gathered for them by their friends . . . they could tuck away without detection."

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So-called "liberals" have been starting an attack on Thomas Mann, who now handles Latin-American affairs for the U. S., because Mr. Mann has refused to bend under pressure from Panama. If the President backs him up, the new man in charge of Latin-American policy will not deal in an atmosphere of threats and pressure.